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CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS: 30th JUNE, 1939.

The Commonwealth Statistician (Dr. Roland Wilson) has made available the following particulars obtained from the Census of Australian Aboriginals which was taken in all States of the Commonwealth on the 30th June, 1939.

With the assistance of the State Statisticians, the Protectors of Aboriginals and the Police an annual Census of the aboriginal population of Australia has been taken since the year 1924. Certain particulars had been ascertained before that date in some States, but an annual Census had not been attempted.

In previous reports, reference has been made to the difficulties of collection, in consequence of which the figures published in the following tables should not be taken as more than reliable estimates.

FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

The full-blood aboriginal population in Australia at the 30th June, 1939, was 51,557 persons of whom 28,746 or 55.8 per cent. were males and 22,811 or 44.2 per cent. were females. Adults numbered 40,482 and children 11,075.

The recorded numbers of the full-blood population remained fairly steady between 1921 and 1933 but in 1934 a complete check of most of the outlying districts of Western Australia and Northern Territory was responsible for a substantial revision of the figures for these areas and the total for Australia dropped from 60,101 persons in 1933 to 54,848 in 1934. From 1934 to 1938 the numbers declined during each year, but there was a small increase in 1939.

In 1921 the aboriginal population consisted of 82.3 per cent. full-bloods and 17.7 per cent. half castes. Since that year, owing to the steady decrease in the number of full-bloods and the rapid increase in the number of half castes, the proportion of full-bloods has fallen to 66.7 per cent. whilst that of the half-caste population has risen to 33.3 per cent.

At the 30th June, 1939, there were 11,343 full-blood aboriginals in regular employment compared with 11,874 in 1938 and 10,925 in 1928. The principal industries in order of importance in which males are engaged are:- grazing, fishing, farming, domestic service, pearling, road construction and black tracking. The females are mainly engaged in domestic service.

HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

The half-caste aboriginal population of Australia at the 30th June, 1939 numbered 25,712 persons, an increase of 994 for the year. Of this total 13,545 or 52.7 per cent. were males and 12,167 or 47.3 per cent. were females. The number of half-caste aboriginals in each State was as follows:- New South Wales, 10,069 or 39.1 per cent., Queensland 6,778 or 26.3 per cent., Western Australia 4,688 or 18.1 per cent., South Australia 2,197 or 8.6 per cent., Northern Territory 913 or 3.6 per cent., Victoria 719 or 2.8 per cent., Tasmania 273 or 1.1 per cent. and Australian Capital Territory 75 or 0.3 per cent.

Since 1901 the half-caste aboriginals have more than trebled their numbers, having increased from 7,370 persons in that year to the present population of 25,712. The rate of growth has been consistently maintained, there being 10,113 in 1911, 12,630 in 1921 and 19,014 in 1931. Since 1901 the half-caste aboriginals have been increasing at a consistently higher average annual rate than the white population.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1939.

AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL AND HALF-CASTE ABORIGINAL POPULATION.

1921 TO 1939

30th June	Full-blood				Half-caste				Total Aboriginal Population
	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	Adults	Children	Total	Percentage on Total Aboriginal Population	
				%				%	
1921	46,723	12,048	58,771	82.31	7,931	4,699	12,630	17.69	71,401
1928	48,044	12,619	60,663	78.29	9,763	7,055	16,818	21.71	77,481
1929	49,078	12,723	61,801	78.80	9,450	7,179	16,629	21.20	78,430
1930	49,167	12,567	61,734	77.62	10,213	7,584	17,797	22.38	79,531
1931	46,676	12,225	58,901	75.60	10,923	8,091	19,014	24.50	77,915
1932	47,345	12,374	59,719	75.68	10,891	8,305	19,196	24.32	78,915
1933	47,321	12,780	60,101	75.53	10,999	8,468	19,467	24.47	79,568
1934	42,955	11,893	54,848	71.93	12,040	9,359	21,399	28.07	76,247
1935	42,492	11,886	54,378	70.44	12,800	10,017	22,817	29.56	77,195
1936	41,950	11,748	53,698	69.59	13,137	10,324	23,461	30.41	77,159
1937	41,306	11,529	52,835	68.81	13,596	10,354	23,950	31.19	76,785
1938	40,487	10,892	51,379	67.52	13,988	10,730	24,718	32.48	76,097
1939	40,482	11,075	51,557	66.72	14,275	11,437	25,712	33.28	77,269

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1939.
FULL-BLOOD ABORIGINALS.

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total full-Blood Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	32	197	129	36	394	5	75	28	108	502
Victoria ..	-	22	1	10	33	-	9	8	17	50
Queensland ..	707	2,926	1,278	224	5,135	120	1,185	245	1,550	6,685
South Australia ..	575	308	144	90	1,117	236	56	51	343	1,460
Western Australia	6,823	2,504	580	210	10,117	1,366	469	214	2,049	12,166
Tasmania ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	2,820	2,078	1,019	347	6,264	914	670	34	1,618	7,882
TOTAL MALES:	10,958	8,035	3,151	917	23,061	2,641	2,464	580	5,685	28,746
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	8	68	105	25	206	1	61	24	86	292
Victoria ..	-	-	11	9	20	-	4	7	11	31
Queensland ..	598	824	1,984	344	3,750	119	1,232	244	1,595	5,345
South Australia ..	552	133	125	104	914	215	59	36	310	1,224
Western Australia	5,735	1,340	556	187	7,818	1,311	431	152	1,894	9,712
Tasmania ..	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Northern Territory	2,305	943	1,273	192	4,713	784	682	28	1,494	6,207
TOTAL FEMALES:	9,198	3,308	4,054	861	17,421	2,430	2,469	491	5,390	22,811
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	40	265	234	61	600	6	136	52	194	794
Victoria ..	-	22	12	19	53	-	13	15	28	81
Queensland ..	1,305	3,750	3,262	568	8,885	239	2,417	489	3,145	12,030
South Australia ..	1,127	441	269	194	2,031	451	115	87	653	2,684
Western Australia	12,558	3,844	1,136	397	17,935	2,677	900	366	3,943	21,878
Tasmania ..	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1
Northern Territory	5,125	3,021	2,292	539	10,977	1,698	1,352	62	3,112	14,089
TOTAL PERSONS:	20,156	11,343	7,205	1,778	40,482	5,071	4,933	1,071	11,075	51,557

(a) This figure does not include those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.

Note: The figures for Western Australia include 10,000 full-blood aboriginals estimated to live outside the influence of Europeans. These have been distributed as follows:- 4,000 male adults, 4,000 female adults, 1,000 male children, and 1,000 female children.

CENSUS OF ABORIGINALS - 30TH JUNE, 1939.
HALF-CASTE ABORIGINALS.

State or Territory	Adults					Children				Total Half-Caste Aboriginals
	Nomadic	In Regular Employment	In Supervised Camps(a)	Other	Total Adults	Nomadic	In Supervised Camps	Other	Total Children	
MALES										
New South Wales ..	197	1,861	626	485	3,169	103	1,002	1,117	2,222	5,391
Victoria ..	5	175	1	48	229	-	76	77	153	382
Queensland ..	36	1,324	148	400	1,908	26	797	738	1,561	3,469
South Australia ..	220	346	120	22	708	135	214	88	437	1,145
Western Australia	194	646	293	164	1,297	211	571	394	1,176	2,473
Tasmania ..	15	4	69	5	93	9	44	-	53	146
Australian Capital Territory ..	-	-	28	-	28	-	14	-	14	42
Northern Territory	7	264	16	-	287	1	181	28	210	497
TOTAL MALES:	674	4,620	1,301	1,124	7,719	485	2,899	2,442	5,826	13,545
FEMALES										
New South Wales ..	100	734	850	855	2,539	72	1,011	1,056	2,139	4,678
Victoria ..	2	55	71	48	176	-	89	72	161	337
Queensland ..	17	764	433	602	1,816	19	737	737	1,493	3,309
South Australia ..	187	76	237	74	574	149	240	89	478	1,052
Western Australia	186	406	315	220	1,127	206	544	338	1,088	2,215
Tasmania ..	16	2	57	4	79	13	34	1	48	127
Australian Capital Territory ..	-	-	23	-	23	-	10	-	10	33
Northern Territory	4	160	26	32	222	3	146	45	194	416
TOTAL FEMALES:	512	2,197	2,012	1,835	6,556	462	2,811	2,338	5,611	12,167
PERSONS										
New South Wales ..	297	2,595	1,476	1,340	5,708	175	2,013	2,173	4,361	10,069
Victoria ..	7	230	72	96	405	-	165	149	314	719
Queensland ..	53	2,088	581	1,002	3,724	45	1,534	1,475	3,054	6,778
South Australia ..	407	422	357	96	1,282	284	454	177	915	2,197
Western Australia	380	1,052	608	384	2,424	417	1,115	732	2,264	4,688
Tasmania ..	31	6	126	9	172	22	78	1	101	273
Australian Capital Territory ..	-	-	51	-	51	-	24	-	24	75
Northern Territory	11	424	42	32	509	4	327	73	404	913
TOTAL PERSONS:	1,186	6,817	3,313	2,959	14,275	947	5,710	4,780	11,437	25,712

(a) This figure does not include those living in Supervised Camps who were in regular employment.